

Message Text

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21

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00

NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 IO-10 OMB-01

AID-05 NIC-01 ACDA-05 SAJ-01 TRSE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00

USIE-00 INRE-00 /074 W

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O R 020845Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1066

INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

USMISSION USUN

USMISSION USNATO

DIA WASHDC (DI-5)

USDOCOSOUTHTR

USCINCEUR

C O N F I D E N T I A L NICOSIA 0456

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR CY TU UN

SUBJ: EXCHANGE OF FIRE ON CEASEFIRE LINE

REF: NICOSIA 0455

1. THIS FOLLOW-UP IS BASED EXCLUSIVELY ON INFORMATION RECEIVED FROM UNFICYP 1000 HOURS LOCAL FEBRUARY 2, 1975.

2. UN IS "REASONABLY CERTAIN" THAT TURKS FIRED FIRST SHOTS AT 1930 HOURS LOCAL FEBRUARY 1 IN VICINITY OF GRAMMAR SCHOOL LOCATED APPROXIMATELY ONE-HALF MILE NORTH OF TRAFFIC CIRCLE AT GATE TO UNFICYP HEADQUARTERS AND NEAR NICOSIA AIRPORT. IF PAST PATTERN HAD BEEN FOLLOWED, GREEKS WOULD HAVE REPLIED WITH A FEW ROUNDS AND EXCHANGE WOULD HAVE TERMINATED. HOWEVER, AT 1940 HOURS GREEKS OPENED UP ON TURK POSITIONS IN UN'S WORDS "WITH EVERYTHING
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THEY HAD." TURKS SOON REPLIED IN KIND AND FIRING SPREAD ALONG

THE GREEN LINE EASTWARD FOR ABOUT FOUR MILES.

3. AT 2030 HOURS TURKS DELIVERED ULTIMATUM TO GREEK SIDE AND TO UNFICYP CANCON COMMANDER THAT UNLESS GREEKS DESISTED BY 2130 HOURS, "ALL MAYHEM WOULD OCCUR." TURKS BY THIS TIME HAD BROUGHT UP REINFORCEMENTS TO GRAMMAR SCHOOL AREA; FOUR TANKS WERE VISIBLE BUT DID NOT FIRE.

4. BY 2130 UN HAD ARRANGED CEASEFIRE. ALL SHOOTING HAD STOPPED BY 2140 HOURS. TURKS APPEARED TO HAVE SUFFERED AT LEAST ONE CASUALTY; NO CASUALTIES REPORTED BY GREEK SIDE.

5. UN ATTRIBUTES THIS PROLONGED EXCHANGE OF FIRE TO GREEK SENSE OF FRUSTRATION AND DISINCLINATION TO ACCEPT FIRING BY TURKS INTO THEIR POSITIONS WITHOUT SERIOUS REPLY. UN EXPECTS THIS HEIGHTENED SENSITIVITY TO CONTINUE AND IS STANDING BY FOR MORE TROUBLE TONIGHT.

6. COMMENT: LAST NIGHT'S FIRE FIGHT IS THE MOST INTENSE AND LONGEST IN PAST SEVERAL MONTHS. NUMBER OF GREEK CYPRIOT RESIDENTS OF AIRPORT CIRCLE AREA FLED FROM THEIR HOMES.
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Message Attributes

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Disposition Reason:
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